

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

INT-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 COME-00 DRC-01

SAJ-01 /204 W

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R 050707Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7938

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14373

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, JA, UK, FR, CH

SUBJECT: COOPERATION EFFORTS TO DEVELOP OIL IN E. CHINA SEA

REF: TOKYO 13811

1. GULF OIL ASIA V.P. FINDLAY MET ON NOV 2 WITH SOICHI MATSUNE, CHAIRMAN OF KEIDANREN (FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS) ENERGY COMMITTEE, AND INFLUENTIAL FIGURE IN JAPANESE ENERGY AREA, TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF GULF IN SCHEME TO DEVELOP OIL RESOURCES IN EAST CHINA SEA. ACCORDING TO GLEN LEDINGHAM, CONSULTANT TO GULF WHO WAS PRESENT, FINDLAY EXPRESSED GULF'S WISH TO PARTICIPATE WITH JAPANESE FIRMS IN CONSIDERATION OF SUCH OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT. FINDLAY, ACCORDING LEDINGHAM, QUESTIONED MATSUNE ON NEED FOR PARTICIPATION OF UK AND FRENCH FIRMS IN PROJECT (SEE REFTEL). MATSUNE
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REPLIED THAT PARTICIPATION OF FIRMS FROM THESE COUNTRIES

ESSENTIAL BECAUSE OF THE GOOD RELATIONS UK AND FRANCE HAVE WITH PRC.

2. LEDINGHAM SAID MATSUNE APPEARED TO BE MAKING SERIOUS EFFORTS TO PUT TOGETHER WELL THOUGHT-OUT PROJECT PROPOSAL TO PRC. ALTHOUGH POINT NOT SPECIFICALLY CLARIFIED, LEDINGHAM HAD STRONG IMPRESSION THAT SO FAR PLANS FOR THIS PROJECT HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH PRC. DISCUSSION WITH MATSUNE DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL BECAUSE OF LACK OF TIME, BUT FURTHER MEETINGS BETWEEN FINDLAY AND MATSUNE SCHEDULED ON NOV 13-14 ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. LEDINGHAM ALSO NOTED THAT FINDLAY HAD DISCUSSED WITH MATSUNE IMPENDING FORMATION OF OVERALL ENERGY PROMOTION COUNCIL IN JAPAN, WHICH MATSUNE MAY HEAD (SEE TOKYO 13505-NOTAL). FINDLAY REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED JAPANESE PREFERENCE FOR COORDINATING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THIS GROUP AND SPECIALLY FORMED COMMITTEE OF US ENERGY FIRMS. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT US ANTI-TRUST LAWS MAY PREVENT FORMATION OF SUCH A GROUP, HOWEVER, FINDLAY OFFERED GULF'S SERVICES AS US CONTACT POINT FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPANESE ENERGY COUNCIL.

4. COMMENT: GULF OBVIOUSLY REALIZES THAT DIFFICULT TERRITORIAL ISSUES ARE INVOLVED IN EAST CHINA SEA AND THAT PRC WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS SUCH A PLAN TO DEVELOP PETROLEUM RESOURCES IS FAR FROM CLEAR. NEVERTHELESS, GULF, WHICH ALREADY HAS CONCESSION AREAS IN EAST CHINA SEA GRANTED BY JAPAN AND ROC, APPEARS TO BE MOVING TO INSURE THAT IT IS INVOLVED IN EAST CHINA SEA FROM AS MANY ANGLES AS POSSIBLE. INGERSOLL

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